

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Sutter's Fort & State Indian Museum Present Collaborative "Hands on History" Event - July 21

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) and the State Indian Museum are teaming up to present a special *"Hands on History: They Came From All Over the World - Before the Gold Rush"* event on Saturday, July 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Many people don't realize that even before gold was discovered in 1848 (which prompted the Gold Rush in 1849), the community of Sutter's Fort and the visitors to New Helvetia were already an incredibly diverse mixture of people and cultures. Not surprisingly, many languages were spoken, many different religions were practiced, and attitudes towards dress, cooking and behavior varied greatly.

As part of the special "Hands on History" event happening on the same day at the two historic parks, Fort visitors will have the opportunity to sample different foods and beverages enjoyed by the various early peoples and participate in activities and fun games practiced by the many cultures. Visitors will especially enjoy watching the Folklorico Aztlan de Sacramento dance group perform as well as see different weapons demonstrations. In addition, Fort visitors can participate in a variety of hands-on crafts such as stringing beads and doll making. Then, at the adjacent State Indian Museum, visitors will have the opportunity to listen to compelling guest speakers who will share stories and talk about the Native Culture of some of California's Indians, and watch demonstrations of soapstone carving, basket-making and acorn preparation.

The special event "combo" ticket prices are \$7 for adults and \$5 for youths ages 6-17 (children five and under are free) and include entrance into both Sutter's Fort SHP and the State Indian Museum. For more information about this special "Hands on History" event, please call 916-445-4422 or 916-324-0971 or visit [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org) or [www.parks.ca.gov/indianmuseum](http://www.parks.ca.gov/indianmuseum).

**About Sutter's Fort State Historic Park**

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the nonprofit Friends of Sutter's Fort. As of January 1, 2012, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located in midtown Sacramento on L Street between 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Streets, the Fort offers monthly "Hands on History" activities and special events throughout the year. Established in 1839 by Swiss immigrant John Augustus Sutter, Sutter's Fort was at the center of a flourishing agricultural empire named New Helvetia (New Switzerland.) This empire established Sacramento's earliest settlement and the first European settlement in California's Central Valley. For more information, call (916) 445-4422 or visit [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org)

**About the State Indian Museum**

The State Indian Museum is operated by California State Parks and supported by the California Indian Heritage Foundation. As of January 1, 2012, the Museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day) for self-guided tours and school group visits. The museum is located in midtown Sacramento at 2618 K Street on the grounds of Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. Current exhibits include traditional basketry, beadwork, ceremonial regalia and hunting & fishing items associated with

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*many of the tribes of California, as well as contemporary artwork. For more information, please call (916) 324-0971 or visit [www.parks.ca.gov/indianmuseum](http://www.parks.ca.gov/indianmuseum)*

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